

Lead Entity Advisory Group
October 9, 2003
Seatac, WA
Summary Notes

LEAG

Attendance:

Members:

Jeff Breckel, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Shirley Solomon, Skagit Watershed Council, Chair
John Sims, Quinault Nation LE
Doug Osterman, King County WRIA 9, Vice Chair
Paul Dorn, Kitsap County LE
Scott Jungblom, Pend Oreille CD LE
Judy Phelps, Chelan County Citizens Committee

Others

Present:

Other Lead Entities & Sponsors:

Kristi Silver, King County WRIA 8

Staff:

Jim Fox, IAC/SRFB
Carole Richmond, IAC/SRFB
Rollie Geppert, IAC/SRFB
Brian Abbott, IAC/SRFB
Kristi Lynett, WDFW
Brian Walsh, WDFW
Debra Wilhelmi, IAC/WDFW
Brett DeMond, WDFW

LEAG

Members

Absent:

Jay Watson, Hood Canal Coordinating Council, excused
Steve Martin, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Introductions

Round table introductions.

**Approval of
Sept Notes**

Approved

Chair Report

Shirley welcomed everyone, including LEAG's newest member, Judy Phelps from Chelan. Judy sits on the Chelan Citizen's Committee and is trained as a fisheries biologist. She reminded them that she, along with Jeff Breckel and Steve Martin, sit on the Issues Task Force, and if LE Coordinators had comments or concerns to share with the ITF, Shirley would convey them at the next ITF meeting. Doug mentioned that the new LEAG meeting cycle had been implemented and that the pre-meeting preparation had gone well.

**Family Forest
Fish Blockage
Program**

Debra and Brett gave a brief overview of IAC's new grant program including the timeline, and suggested ways that Lead Entities could participate and get the word out to perspective landowners and sponsors

(See the 4 handouts for more details). While the program will be using WDFW priority culvert information and targeting 2 WRIAs (23 & 49), all information is welcome and the program is seeking projects statewide. Because this is a brand new program, they are unsure of the level of interest and can only guess at how many applications may be submitted this year.

Lead Entities are needed to help in identifying small forest landowners who are eligible and willing to participate. LEs can do this by distributing brochures that DNR is finalizing and printing, and by word of mouth. The Program Team (staff from DNR, IAC, WDFW) are willing to make presentations to your committees and members this fall to help educate all on this new cost-share fish blockage program. Lead Entities can also help solicit sponsors to actually be the grant award recipients. The Program Team thinks it will be much more efficient for experienced project sponsors to be the official grantees, instead of landowners unfamiliar with contract management, permitting, and design work.

Concern was expressed that the Program ensures that identified high priority projects are consistent with each lead entity's strategy.

Please contact the Small Forest Landowner Office at DNR for more information. JedHerman, 360.902.1389 jed.herman@wadnr.gov

**Issues Task
Force Topics
Discussion**

Strategies

The document "A Guide to Lead Entity Strategy Development" was discussed and consensus emerged that the document, if adopted or approved by the SRFB, *should just be a recommended guidance, not prescriptive*. A few comments were captured regarding specific word choice in the document and IAC staff will incorporate those suggestions into their next version.

Role of Tech
Panel

The composition and deployment of the "tech panel" (not even sure what to call it yet) cannot occur until their role and scope has been secured. LEAG voted on and approved a motion initiated by Doug that stated, The SRFB should keep the review process as is and offer no major revisions from the 4th round (6 approved with Jeff Breckel opposed). LEAG is concerned that there is not sufficient time to obtain acceptance for nor to operationalize more substantial changes.

A separate motion was approved (6 approved with Jeff Breckel opposed) that offered some guiding principles that should help define the "tech panel's" role. These include; collegial, professional, and educational relationship between state reviewers and LEs; keep community interests and/or values out of the prevue of the state review panel; the panel should focus more attention and weight to a project's fit within a strategy versus project details (random audits on project specific are an acceptable means to show accountability); and a clear fit-it-loop for low benefit projects needs to be established upfront. Jim Fox felt these

principles would be helpful to him to develop an option for the 5th round funding cycle to present to the ITF .

Concern was expressed that while no substantial changes to the review process are deemed necessary by LEAG, the status quo is unacceptable and it is important to improve upon the 4th round flaws immediately.

Definition of Restoration/ Acquisition	LEAG felt strongly that it was important to keep the definition as broad as possible, including fee simple acquisition needed to perform restoration work, feasibility and design, engineering, and effectiveness monitoring. Project sponsors should more fully document how and why a fee-simple acquisition was chosen as a last resort for protection.
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Performance Measures	IAC staff is charged with implementing recommendations out of the JLARC (Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee's) 2001 report, specifically measuring environmental grant program's performance. Over this biennium, IAC staff will be coordinating and monitoring various output and outcome measures to gauge program effectiveness. This will include not only project results but programmatic value-added benefits. Carole Richmond will be involving LEAG in future and more in-depth discussions.
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NEXT MEETING
10 a.m.
November 14, 2003
Seatac, WA